

## You have to go to court What do you do?

Don't miss court.  
You must not be late

Do what your bail notice tells you

Get a solicitor

Take your parents or  
carers to court with you

Take to court any official papers you are given

Any questions, contact the  
Youth Offending Team (YOT)

## J got arrested. She admits she's guilty. Must she go to court?

**Yes.** If you are arrested and charged with an offence, you have to go to court. Don't forget any papers you have been asked to take to court. Wear clothes that respect the court. Take any medicines you need with you. Get to court on time.

Don't miss court.  
You must not be late

**If you miss court,** you will get into trouble. The court will ask the police to find and arrest you. You could be locked up. Miss your trial and the court won't hear your side of the story.

## M got caught carrying drugs. He's on bail. What must he do?

Do what your bail notice tells you

**Stay out of trouble.** When you are on bail you must behave. Stay safe. Don't break the law. Do what your bail notice tells you to do.

Get a solicitor

## T says no one cares what he has to say. Right or wrong?

**Wrong.** The police and court will want to hear what you say. A solicitor will help you tell your side of the story. The earlier you get a solicitor, the better it is for you. They will help you apply for legal aid to pay for their work. Never miss meetings with your solicitor.

## A is 15. Is it okay to go to court alone?

**No.** If you are under 16, your parents or carers must attend court with you. If they don't, they may get into trouble and your case may be delayed until they come to court.

Take your parents  
or carers to court  
with you

## Write important stuff here

Solicitor \_\_\_\_\_

Your court date and time \_\_\_\_\_

Court location \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Offending Team \_\_\_\_\_

Take to court any  
official papers  
you are given

## Important advice to parents and carers

**Your child/care has got to go to court.  
You must do the following:**

- If your child is under 16, you must go to court with them.
- If you do not go to court, a warrant may be issued for **your arrest**.
- Speak to a solicitor with your child.
- Make sure you know which court you are going to. Get there on time.
- Read this leaflet and make sure you understand what is happening.

## You have to go to court

**Important:** This advice will help you. If you don't understand it, **ask for help**

**Don't miss court.  
You must not be late**

The police charged you because they think you broke the law. You now have to go to court. You will be told what day and time to be at court. Don't miss it or you will get into trouble.

### If you miss court:

- The court will ask the police to find and arrest you
- You could be charged for missing court
- You might have to stay in a police cell until you go to court
- You might not get bail in future
- The trial could start without you and you won't be able to tell your side of the story.

## After you have been charged

**If you are released to go home after you have been charged, this means you are on bail. What does this mean?**

- Bail means you are being trusted to behave until you go to court.
- You must be at court on the day and time you are told to be there.
- You will get a piece of paper (called a bail notice) that explains what you have to do.
- The police will tell you what you must and must not do while you are on bail (called bail conditions).
- **Ask for help if you don't understand.**

### You will get into more trouble if:

- You break the law while you are on bail
- You do not stick to your bail conditions
- You do not go to court on time. That is breaking the law.

**Do what your bail  
notice tells you**

**Get a solicitor**

## Have you got a solicitor?

- Speak to a solicitor as soon as you can. **Don't wait until you go to court.** Always turn up for meetings.
- Tell the solicitor your side of the story. They can help you in court.
- Your solicitor will tell you your rights and how to apply for legal aid to pay for their work.
- If you don't find a solicitor, **as soon as you arrive** at court ask to see the duty solicitor to help you.

If you need to find a solicitor near your home, phone **0845 345 4345** or visit the website **[www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk](http://www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk)**

**Ask for help if you cannot do this yourself.**

## At the court

- Tell the court your side of the story. Tell them the truth about what you have and haven't done. If you are sorry, say so.
- If you plead guilty or you are found guilty, the court will decide your sentence.
- If they are asked, the Youth Offending Team will give the court information about you.
- Listen carefully at court. **If you do not understand, ask for help.**

**Under 16? Your parent or carer must be at court with you.**

- If they won't or cannot attend court, take someone with you who is over 18.
- Tell them the day and time that you need to be in court.
- If your parent or carer does not go to court with you, they may get into trouble.
- Your case may be delayed until they come to court.
- Even if you are 16 or over, it may be helpful if you attend court with a parent or carer.

**Take to court any official papers you are given**

## Illness

- If you are too ill to attend court, you must tell this to the court and your solicitor **and**
- You must get a note from your doctor that says you are too ill to go to court.

## Disability or special needs

If you, your parent or carer will need additional help or support because of disability, please contact the court a few days before the day you have to be at court.

## The Youth Offending Team (YOT)

- The YOT is there to help you and your family at every stage of the court process.
- The court may ask you to talk to the YOT. They will want to help you to stay out of trouble in future. You can ask them for help anyway.
- Listen carefully to what you are told by the court and the YOT. If you don't do what they tell you, you could go back to court and get a different sentence.
- **If you don't understand what the YOT or the court tells you, ask someone when you are in the court.**